

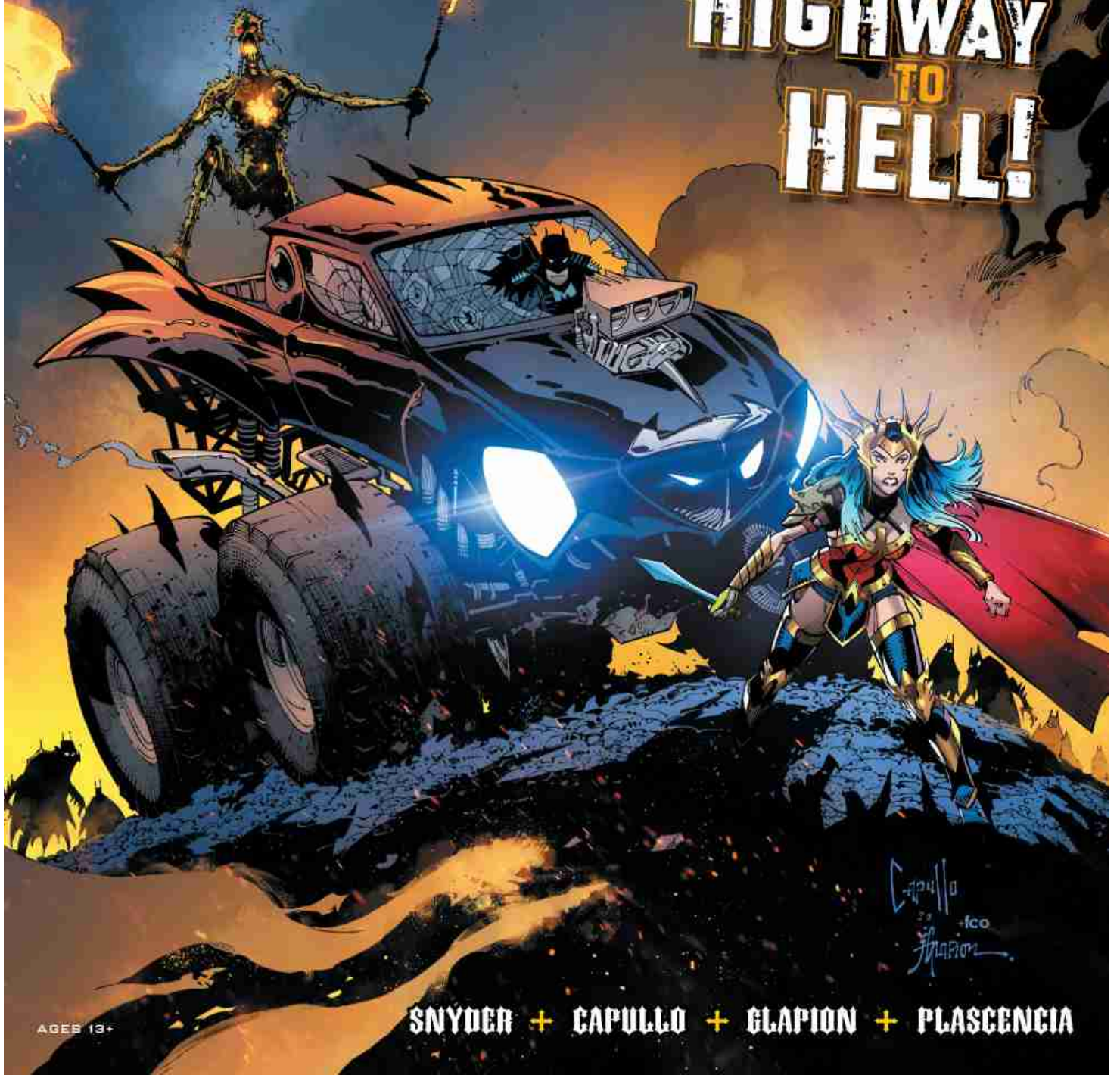


DARK NIGHTS

2

DEATH METAL

ON
A
HIGHWAY
TO
HELL!



AGES 13+

SNYDER + CAPULLO + GLAPION + PLASCENCIA



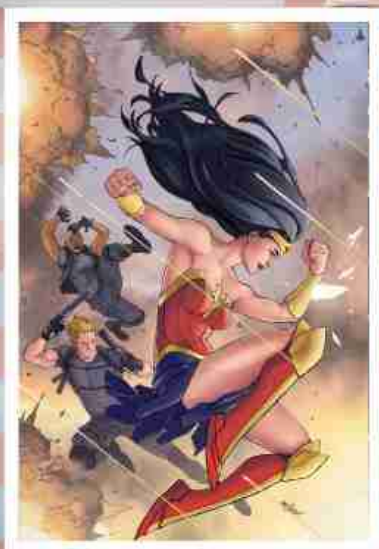
JULY

WONDER WOMAN

#759

Story by
**MARIKO
TAMAKI**

Art by
**MIKEL
JANÍN**



Cover by David Marquez

**New villains.
New creative team.
A brand-new day for
the Amazon warrior!**



"THERE YOU ARE! I WAS LOOKING FOR YOU. WELCOME BACK TO THE FRONT, KIDDO."

"OH, UNCLE ROCK GETS IT. YOU'RE READY TO CHARGE STRAIGHT TO ENEMY COMMAND, TORCH 'EM ALL, AREN'T YOU?"



"BUT SEE, THE GREAT WISDOM OF GENERALS SAYS WARS ARE WON HILL BY HILL. HELL, BLADE BY BLADE OF GRASS..."

"...YOU CREEP, YOU SLITHER, UNTIL YOUR TEETH ARE AT THEIR DAMN TOES."



CASTLE BAT, COME IN! MY LORD?

IF YOU CAN HEAR ME, THERE'S NO SIGN OF THEM YET. BUT I SWEAR, IF THEY DARE COME THIS WAY, THE BATOM WILL TEACH THEM, BIG THINGS COME IN SMALL--



DEATH METAL

AN ANTI-CRISIS PART II BE THE FERN

BY SCOTT "96*&\$#@" SNYDER & GREG "THE CHOSEN ONE" CAPULLO



WITH

INKS - JONATHAN "GOD-KILLER" GLAPION

COLORS - FCO "FEARMONGER" PLASCENCIA

LETTERS - TOM "THE TORMENTOR" NAPOLITANO

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HARLEY QUINN VARIANT COVER BY STANLEY "ARTGERM" "THE LAMENTED" LAU

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SUPERMAN CREATED BY JERRY SIEGEL AND JOE SHUSTER
BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH THE JERRY SIEGEL FAMILY



THE HELLSCAPE.

(OUTSIDE WHAT USED TO BE WASHINGTON, D.C.)



WHERE HAVE YOU TAKEN ME?!

HEY! YOU!



FINE. YOU MAY HAVE SEVERED MY BRAIN STEM, BUT I AM BATMOBEAST.

IN A WORLD OF GENIUS MACHINES, I ROSE TO DOMINANCE.

YOU CANNOT BEST ME.

IF YOU'RE SO SMART, WHY DO THEY CALL ELBOWS FUNNY BONES?



WHAT DOES THAT...

FINE.

beep boop beep

THE ANSWER IS A JOKE. "AN ELBOW IS CALLED A FUNNY BONE BECAUSE IT'S HUMERUS." TRY HARDER NEXT T--



ALEC, I'VE BEEN AROUND THE MULTIVERSE AND IT'S IMPERATIVE I WARN YOU, THAT WAS A DAD JOKE.

IMPOSSIBLE. THE GREEN DOES NOT--

ENOUGH. WE NEED TO FIND BRUCE FAST, WHILE THE DARK KNIGHTS ARE STILL REELING FROM THE BATMAN WHO LAUGHS' DEATH.



WELL, AS A LORD OF THE DEAD, HIDING IN THE COUNTRY'S BIGGEST CEMETERY MAKES SENSE. BUT I DO NOT SENSE BRUCE HERE, DIANA.



THAT'S BECAUSE HE'S IN THE OTHER CEMETERY.

WHAT OTHER ONE?



THIS OTHER ONE.



HOW DO I NOT KNOW ABOUT THIS PLACE?



IT'S CALLED **VALHALLA CEMETERY**, OR THE **CRYPT OF HEROES**. IT'S A SACRED AND LONG HELD SECRET.

GUARDED BY MAGIC, SCIENCE, AND TRUST. THE RESTING PLACE OF FALLEN FRIENDS. PROTECTED BY A ROTATION OF TRUSTED CUSTODIANS.

WHO'S GUARDING IT NOW?

I DON'T KNOW, I'M JUST GLAD IT'S HERE.

I WAS WORRIED THAT WHEN **PERPETUA** REARRANGED THE WORLD FOR THE BATMAN WHO LAUGHS, LANDMARKS LIKE THIS WERE LOST, BUT IT SEEMS EVERYTHING IS STILL INTACT. JUST... TWISTED AROUND.

A WORLD MADE MONSTR--





IT'S PRONOUNCED "MA HUNKEL." SHE WAS THE GUARDIAN OF THE FIRST HEADQUARTERS OF THE JUSTICE SOCIETY OF AMERICA.

THAT'D BE US, HON.



FATE, WILDCAT.

SWAMP THING. YOU'VE LOST WEIGHT.

ALAN, YOU DON'T KNOW HOW GOOD IT IS TO SEE YOU AGAIN.

YOU AS WELL, DIANA. TELL ME, THE WORLD ABOVE--CAN WE WIN IT BACK?

THAT'S WHY WE'RE HERE, OLD FRIEND.



TELL ME YOU STILL REMEMBER ME, JAY?

I'LL NEVER FORGET YOU AGAIN, KID. BRING IT IN.



BATMAN. IS HE HERE?

HE IS. BUT HE ASKED NOT TO BE DISTURBED...





ONE PLANET HIDDEN IN THE DARK? WE SAVE WHO WE CAN?! THAT'S ALL "LESS," BRUCE.

LOOK, NOW IS OUR CHANCE, *THIS MOMENT*. IF WE BAND TOGETHER AND GET THAT CRISIS ENERGY, WE CAN USE IT TO SAVE *ALL* EARTHS, EVEN THOSE THAT HAVE FALLEN!

MAKE SOMETHING NEW AND BEAUTIFUL AND ENDLESS!



WILL YOU *LISTEN* TO YOURSELF, DIANA?! WE'RE SUPPOSED TO CREATE SOME NEW INFINITE MULTIVERSE?!

JUST... LEAVE SO I CAN GET BACK TO WORK.

I SAID *LEA--*



NO.

WE'RE SAVING EVERYONE. STARTING WITH *YOU*.



WHAT THE *HELL* HAPPENED TO YOU IN THAT LAST BATTLE, HUH?

WHAT CHANGED INSIDE YOU?!



ALL RIGHT. YOU WANT TO KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO ME?!

MY *SECRET*?!

FINE, I'LL TELL YOU! I...

...
=SIGH= IT DOESN'T MATTER. WHAT MATTERS...

"...IS THAT YOU'RE WRONG, AND I KNOW YOU'RE WRONG BECAUSE I MADE THE SAME MISTAKE LAST TIME WE FACED DOWN AN EVENT LIKE THIS.

"WHEN BARBATOS ATTACKED, I WAS THE ONE WHO SAID WE SHOULD GO AFTER THE *TENTH METAL*, THE VERY BUILDING BLOCK OF REALITY. I WAS THE ONE WHO SAID WE SHOULD GO TO THE *FORGE OF WORLDS*, REMEMBER?

"I WAS THE CENTER OF THE CONFLICT, AND I THOUGHT BY REACHING HIGHER TOGETHER WE'D NOT ONLY WIN BUT MAKE THE UNIVERSE *BETTER*.

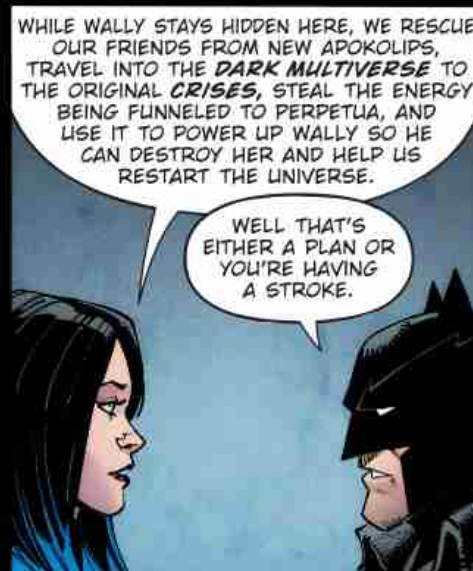
"INSTEAD, WE BROKE THE *SOURCE WALL* AND SET HER FREE, THE OLDEST VILLAIN THIS UNIVERSE HAS KNOWN: *PERPETUA*. AND WITH LUTHOR'S HELP SHE'S BECOME A HUNDRED TIMES MORE POWERFUL THAN ANY BARBATOS.

"WHEN WE REACHED HIGHER *AGAIN*, AND TRIED TO USE THE ENERGY FROM THIS DR. MANHATTAN TO COMBAT HER? WE FELL.

"NOW THERE'RE BARELY ANY EARTHS LEFT. THOSE WHO OPPOSE HER END UP ON HER ANTENNAE. THOSE WHO OPPOSE HER JOIN HER ARMY OF MONSTERS.

"AND *YOU*...YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT TRYING SOMETHING EVEN CRAZIER..."







WHAT IS IT? WHAT'S WRONG? I HOPE THIS IS WORTH THE STOP, JAY. IF HE DETECTS ME--

WALLY?!

BARRY, MY GOD IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU.



COME HERE!

TRIPLE-FLASH HUG!



BARRY, HOW MUCH IS LEFT OF THE **SPEED FORCE**?

NOT MUCH. I'VE NEARLY BURNT OUT WHAT'S LEFT OF IT TRYING TO GO BACK IN TIME TO FIX THIS.

BUT THERE'S NO WAY OUT OF THE PRESENT.



WE'RE NOT LOOKING TO TIME-TRAVEL. WE'RE LOOKING TO GET TO NEW APOKOLIPS TO FREE OUR FRIENDS.

AND THEN WIN.

WELL, WELL, MAYBE THIS *WAS* WORTH STOPPING FOR AFTER ALL.



"HOLD IT STEADY..."

"CAREFULLY AS
YOU CAN NOW..."

BITE THE HAND

MEANWHILE, IN CASTLE BAT.



THAT'S IT, ALFROOD. THAT'S IT...

I DON'T UNDERSTAND. HIS BRAIN GOES INTO THE NAKED BLUE GUY AND IT'S SUPPOSED TO JUST...TURN ON?



THAT "NAKED BLUE GUY" IS A BRUCE WAYNE WHOSE BODY IS MORE AN **ENERGY CONSTRUCT** THAN MATERIAL FLESH, B. REX. IF OUR LORD WAS RIGHT...



...IT **SHOULD** ABSORB HIS MIND AS ITS OWN, AND, IN THE PROCESS, MAKE HIM INTO SOMETHING FAR MORE POWERFUL THAN HE WAS IN LIFE...A BEING OF **NEAR-UNLIMITED POWER...**



SER?

SER U SHALL BECOME A BAT, FATHUR?



UNH...







I SENSED A
DISTURBANCE.

ON
THE CONTRARY,
ALL IS WELL
HERE, AND OUT
THERE?



I HAVE
CONQUERED
ANOTHER
EARTH. SIX
REMAIN.

LISTEN
WELL, MY KNIGHT.
I *KNOW* YOU ARE
A TRICKSTER.

BUT THE
BEINGS LIKE ME, MY
KIND, "*HANDS*"--IF THEY
SENSE WHAT'S HAPPENING
HERE, THEY WILL COME
FOR THIS REALITY AGAIN,
AS THEY DID WHEN I
FIRST CREATED
IT.

ONLY I CAN
CONCEAL US FROM
THEM. I TRUST YOU
SIMPLY BECAUSE YOU
KNOW THAT IF YOU
USURP ME, THE HANDS
WILL COME FOR
US BOTH...



...AND MY
JUDGMENT...



...WHILE
HARSH...



...IS NOTHING
COMPARED TO THE
RECKONING THEY
WOULD BRING.



SHE IS
GONE.

MY...MY
LORD? WE ARE
AT YOUR SERVICE.
WHAT WOULD YOU
HAVE US DO?



NOTHING.



ALL OF THEM
WERE ADMIRABLY
VICIOUS, YET...
WANTING.

BUT YOU,
IN YOU I SENSE
A DARKNESS...TELL
ME YOUR STORY,
CHILD.



OOH.



MY POWER IS STILL WEAK. I COULD USE A LIKE-MINDED ALLY.

TELL ME, BOY, WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE MY ROBIN KING?

CROW...N.



HEH. OH, YOU'LL HAVE A CROWN.

NOW, WE HAVE WORK TO DO. SEE, THEY ARE MAKING THEIR MOVE OUT THERE... I CAN FEEL IT. SO WE MUST MAKE OURS.

DIANA SEEKS TO RENEW THE MULTIVERSE, RE-BUILD IT FROM SCRATCH. WELL SO DO I.

BUT I WILL BUILD SOMETHING NEVER SEEN BEFORE: 52 PLANETS OF NIGHTMARE, BEAUTIFUL IN THEIR HORROR.



NOW I'LL TAKE MY NEW FORM, CHILD.

DON'T BE AFRAID.

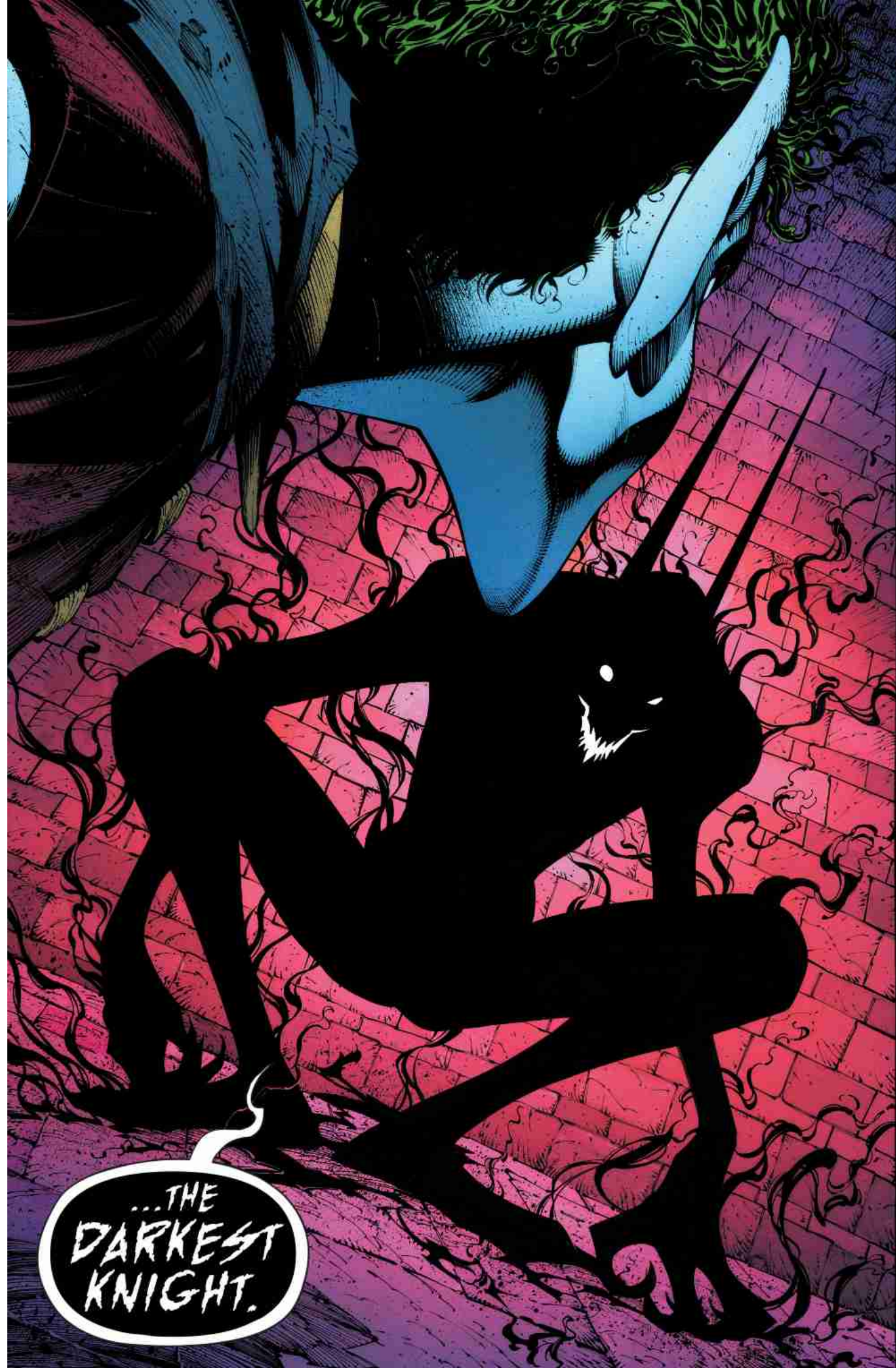


BLUE IS FOR SOLDIERS OF MORNING, OF LIGHT.

BUT ME... I AM NO DAWN.



NO, YOU CAN CALL ME...



...THE
DARKEST
KNIGHT.

TOY SOLDIERS

THE ARKHAM WASTELAND.







DARK
KNIGHTS,
STAND
DOWN!

I DON'T
UNDERSTAND.

YES,
SIR.

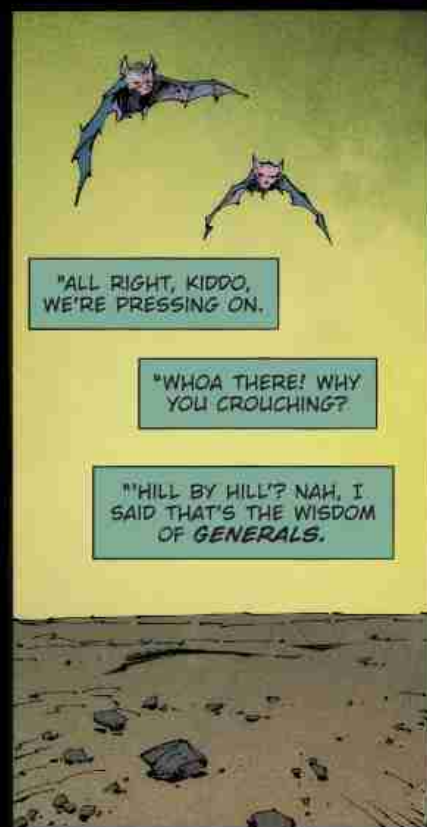
THEY'RE
RE-CREATIONS. I BUILT
THIS BUNKER AFTER OUR
LAST FIGHT WITH **BARBATOS**.
IT HOUSES MACHINES CREATED BY
TOYMASTER IN CASE THERE
WAS EVER ANOTHER
INCURSION.



TOYMASTER? THE
LAST THING HE BUILT US
WAS A COMBINING JUSTICE
LEAGUE **SUPER-ROBOT**.
BUT YOU'RE SAYING HE
MADE SOMETHING STEALTH
THAT CAN GET US TO NEW
APOKOLIPS UNDETECTED?
SOMETHING
SUBTLE?

...
NOT
EXACTLY
SUBTLE.

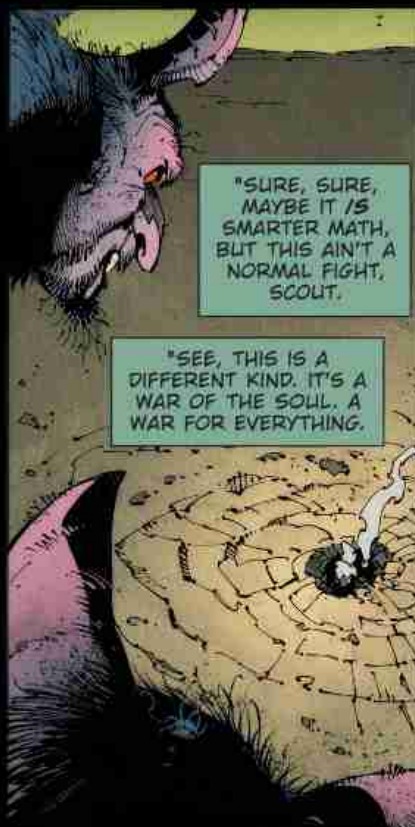
*SEE METAL #1.



"ALL RIGHT, KIDDO,
WE'RE PRESSING ON.

"WHOA THERE! WHY
YOU CROUCHING?

"HILL BY HILL"? NAH, I
SAID THAT'S THE WISDOM
OF **GENERALS**.



"SURE, SURE,
MAYBE IT IS
SMARTER MATH,
BUT THIS AIN'T A
NORMAL FIGHT,
SCOUT.

"SEE, THIS IS A
DIFFERENT KIND. IT'S A
WAR OF THE SOUL. A
WAR FOR EVERYTHING.



"AND IN **THOSE**, THE ONLY WAY
TO WIN IS TO GO RIGHT DOWN
THE **#5%** MIDDLE. NO WAVERING.
DRAGON SWEAT AND EAGLE FIRE!

"SO WHEN
THEY SEE US
COMING...THEY
KNOW.

"KNOW THAT WE'RE BIGGER AND
BADDER THAN ANYTHING THEY'VE
EVER SEEN BEFORE..."

"...AND WE'RE
COMING RIGHT
FOR THEM."



TO BE CONTINUED

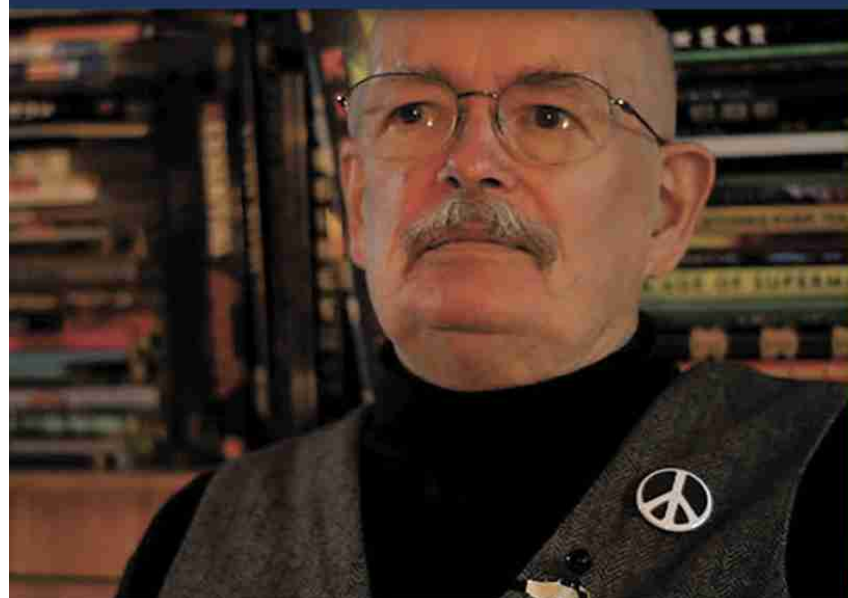
“

Demonstrate for me possibilities I've never thought of and present me with heroes who will give me courage and hope. Ease my sorrows and increase my joy. Teach me compassion. Entertain and enchant and enlighten me. Tell me a story.

—**DENNIS O'NEIL**

1939-2020

”



R.I.P. DENNY O' NEIL—one of the visionary architects of DC Comics who helped revive Batman in the 1970s and remains my favorite Green Lantern writer to date. Through his editing and writing, Denny was one of the earliest writers whose work and focus on social issues pushed comics to wider respectability and acceptance as an art form. Through his work and mentorship, he influenced generations of writers and artists. Our condolences to his family and many fans around the world.

—**JIM LEE**



DC
THE NEW 52



Leave it to Scott Snyder and Greg Capullo to deliver the most **METAL** brain transplant in comic book history. *Dark Nights: Death Metal* #2 saw the Batman Who Laughs, seemingly out for the count following a severe case of being chopped in half by Wonder Woman and her Chainsaw of Truth, getting his brain transferred into the body of the character who could only be called the Bat-Manhattan Who Laughs.

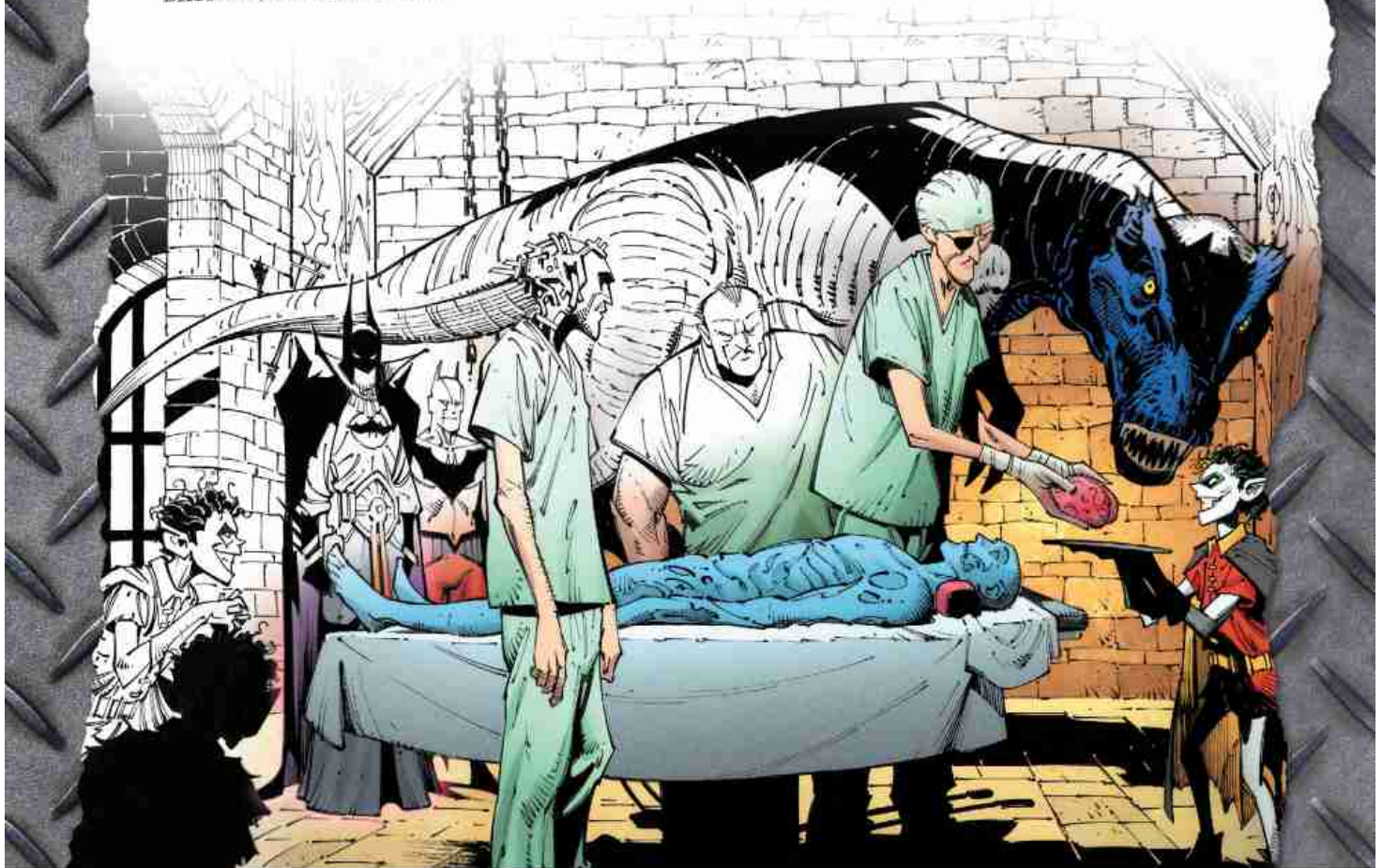
It's a wild, weird, and wonderful moment in a series already full of them, and here's how it came together—from Snyder's script to Capullo and Jonathan Glapion's black-and-white art and FCO Plascencia's colors.

TITLE CARD: "STALK"

PAGE 11

We CUT to CASTLE BAT where 3 EVIL ALFREDS are going to be working to insert the BRAIN of the BMWL into the body of the BAT MANHATTAN WHO LAUGHS. We can open on the BMWL's body if you want, cut in half, dead, as a GROBLIN (Robin-goblin) pulls out his BRAIN.

...and hands it to the ALFREDS. As for the ALFREDS, I see all as looking evil and being in SURGICAL SCRUBS but clearly being ALFREDS. The first could be part nano-bots, like a BORG, the second could be very muscular, like a badass thug ALFRED. The third I see as the main one, a kind of classic Alfred but bigger, taller, more ghoulish with a PATCH over his eye. As ridiculous as this all is, the hope is to keep it fun and a bit spooky. So whatever works! The main ALFRED places it inside the glowing cavity...Also in the room are the SORCERER BATMAN, the DINO-BATMAN and the BATMAN BEYOND.



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The Last Kryptonian-DCP

